

Message Text

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60

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 IO-10 JUSE-00

NSAE-00 SNM-02 TRSE-00 USIA-06 NSC-05 OES-03 OMB-01

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5453

INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS

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CARACAS FOR DEA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR, PN

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT SPEAKS ON NARCOTICS CONTROL

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. AMONG THE SIGNIFICANT ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE REVOLUTION CITED BY PRESIDENT LAKAS IN HIS OCTOBER 11 "STATE OF NATION" SPEECH WAS THE PROMULGATION OF NEW LEGAL CODES DESIGNED TO AVOID DELAYS IN HANDLING DOWN COURT DECISIONS. LAKAS ALSO HAILED THE PANAMA ACCORDS REACHED IN THE INTER-AMERICAN CONFERENCE ON PRIVATE INTERNATIONAL LAW HELD HERE RECENTLY AND SAID THAT CONFERENCE WAS THE MOST IMPORTANT IN FIELD OF INTERNATIONAL LAW HELD IN THE AMERICAS OVER THE PAST FIFTY YEARS.

2. LAKAS HIGHLIGHTED GOP ACHIEVEMENTS IN INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS CONTROL IN FOLLOWING TERMS: "BUT THE VISIBLE AND PALPABLE WORK OF THE HIGHEST IMPORTANCE AND GREATEST REPERCUSSIONS IN THE FIELD OF JUSTICE IS THAT REFERRING TO THE WORLD-WIDE STRUGGLE AGAINST THE CRIMINAL DRUG TRAFFIC, WHERE WE HAVE MADE SUCH GREAT GAINS THAT NOW--ACCORDING TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES CONTROLLING THAT CRIMINAL

BUSINESS--OUR COUNTRY IS AVOIDED BY INTERNATIONAL DRUG TRAFFICKERS BECAUSE THEY FEAR THE HARSH ACTION OF JUSTICE AND DILIGENCE OF OUR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS IN DETECTING AND PUNISHING THE INFRACTORS OF LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL NORMS."

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3. COMMENT: PRESIDENT LAKAS IS UNDOUBTEDLY EXAGGERATING WHEN HE CLAIMS DRUG TRAFFICERS ARE NOW AVOIDING PANAMA AS A RESULT OF HARSH GOP ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS. HE IS NEVERTHELESS JUSTIFIED IN POINTING TO PROGRESS ACHIEVED OVER THE PAST YEAR. MOREOVER, EMBASSY BELIEVES MENTION OF DRUG TRAFFICKING PROBLEM BY PRESIDENT SERVES TO KEEP ISSUE IN PUBLIC EYE AND HELPS KEEP GOP COMMITTED TO AN EFFECTIVE INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS CONTROL PROGRAM.
JORDEN

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